Special youth in education section, pages 9 – 12

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Inside The Drum

Update	2
Culture	3
Health	4
Education	5
Sports	7
Youth	2
Voices	13
Notices	14
Classifieds	15
Back Page	16



Men at work



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Anthony "Asa" Ortiz, a construction repair labor trainee with the Southern Ute Tribal Housing Department, gets ready to paint during a training session on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Construction Services Division
— learned the use of a variety of saws and other tools, then put

them to work building a work-

They also began framing a small structure, one they would use later in the week to practice installing sheetrock, painting, insulation, and other parts of the job.

"It was really helpful," Ortiz the final day of training Baker said

On Day 2, Baker sent the crew to a tribe-sponsored CPR training for certification — a skill not specifically Tribal Housing-related, but regarded as generally important. Day 3 saw the trainees working with a contract electrician on changing out electrical plugs, and on

sent them to a job site to continue learning from contractors.

"I want to get young tribal members in there to learn," he said. "We were trying to see how we could continue to keep these young tribal members working."

Training page 8

Tribal eyes on tribal skies

Southern Ute permitting program first in Indian Country

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Air Quality Program won approval on Friday, March 2 to begin issuing its own operating permits to major sources of air pollution on the reservation, becoming the first tribe in the nation to do so.

Issuing permits has traditionally been a duty of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who before now had only granted it to individual states who made successful applications. But when EPA Region 8 Administrator James B. Martin signed the tribe's application at about 10 a.m. in Denver, the tribe effectively won the right to be treated as a state.

"We're really looking forward to taking over," said Brenda Jarrell, manager of the tribe's Air Quality Program. "The Southern

Tribal skies page 6

Sanford's rally shocks Ignacio

By Ace Stryker

The Southern Ute Drum

When Southern Ute

Baker lately has undertaken a

personal mission: to give young tribal members a set of skills

they can use to be successful employees anywhere they go,

whether with the tribe or private contractors. So when he assem-

bled four new trainees in a ware-

house near the site of the old Sky Ute Casino Pavilion for a week

of hands-on training, he wasn't

"To me, it's very important:

giving these younger tribal

members an opportunity that

was never given to me," he said.

"Really, I want to teach them

what to expect when they go out

in the real world. ... I'm just

hoping they'll hit the ground

The first day of training on

Tuesday, Feb. 21 began with

tool familiarization, in which

the young employees — con-

struction repair labor trainees

Jonathan Chavez, Anthony

"Asa" Ortiz and Aaron Pena of

the Tribal Housing Department,

and construction repair tech

trainee Julius Baker of the

running with the basics."

just going through the motions.

Tribal Housing Director Mel Baker hires a trainee, he takes

the job seriously.

Boys fall in regional final

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

There's something to be said for the Ignacio High School boys' basketball program when a gym the size of Durango's DemonDome — stuffed mostly with Bobcat backers great and small — goes nearly silent.

A state tournament "Great Eight" trip is an expectation, not a distant goal.

But on Saturday, March 3, the goal seemed as distant as Pueblo, and its Events Center, is from Ignacio. And at the worst time possible: IHS managed two points in the fourth quarter of the 2A-Region III finale, while the Sanford Indians racked up 22 to swipe a stunning 61-53 verdict.

"Yeah, it was a tough, long game," said senior Shane Richmond in a quiet, shaky voice. "And we gave it our all, tried our best. ... Got a little tired there at the end. Just couldn't pull it off."

"We just played hard all three quarters," said sophomore Clayton Jefferson, who fouled out with 28 seconds left, and was just as hushed, "and that last quarter we ... lacked energy."

Which was, simply put, electric and free-flowing from the outset; SHS head coach Rhett Larsen, incensed, called timeout just 40 seconds in after a turnover and a Richmond jumper over a double-team. Any revised plans were proven futile: Richmond, who managed IHS's final basket about 90 seconds into the fourth, racked up 11 first-quarter points, and Jefferson sank a key three with 1:25 left.

Down 14-10 after the opening eight minutes, Sanford (20-5 before Thursday night's game against 23-0 Denver Christian) could have packed it all in if not for two triples by guard Calder Larsen. For Richmond, netting 10 points more in the second,



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Adison Jones (33) has a defensive rebound disrupted by Sanford's Mason Larsen (20), while Bobcat teammate Shane Richmond (10) attempts to clear some space in the congested lane during the Saturday, March 3 2A-Region III Tournament championship in Durango.

appeared two steps swifter in the paint with SHS posts Stetson Edgar and Colton Crowther also having to respect freshman Adison Jones' shooting ability.

"They got it in to their big man, just like we expected," lamented SHS guard Josh Jarvies.

And Jefferson? Opened the frame with a three, then added an "and-one" free throw on his next score from distance, putting Ignacio up 21-12 with 6:52 left in the half. Richmond followed soon after with the first of three (two were completed) bucket-withbonus efforts, taking one hack from Edgar and two from Larsen.

Jarvies' first trey and an Edgar hoop underneath, with just 0:01 left, gave Sanford, trailing 33-23, a flickering hope in the still-roaring venue, only to see Richmond threaten to extinguish it with a three-pointer after Jarvies began the third quarter with a miss.

Larsen (24 points) responded with a critical three-ball, but after Sanford closed to just eight points with 4:17 left, Ignacio fought through revamped full-court pressure to go up 46-32 on an Adam Herrera breakaway with 2:12 remaining.

Ignacio page 7

Mountain lion killed on 550





photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

An adult male mountain lion met an early end on Thursday, Feb. 23 in an encounter with traffic on U.S. Highway 550 near the Colorado-New Mexico state line. The Southern Ute Tribal Rangers acted quickly, recovering the animal and turning it over to the tribe's Wildlife Resource Management Division. For the full story, see the back page.

News in brief

IGNACIO

Veterans Association reschedules meeting

The Southern Ute Veterans Association has cancelled its regular business meeting that was previously scheduled for Wednesday, March 7. The meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Facility.

Seeking Southern Ute, Native American elders

You are invited to come and share your culture and traditional expertise with the students of the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. You can choose the group size you will work with. You will be compensated with a stipend. For more information, call Georgia McKinley at 970-563-0253 ext. 2701.

Spring break field trips planned

The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has scheduled field trips during spring break on Tuesday, April 3; Wednesday, April 4; and Thursday, April 5. The cost of each trip is \$10; Southern Ute tribal members and descendants are free. Space will be limited. For more information on times and availability, call the club at 970-563-4753.

Hunter education classes scheduled for March

Hunter education classes will take place in the Buckskin Charlie Room on the second floor of the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building. Students must attend all five classes: March 20, 22, 27, 28, and 29, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The minimum age is 12. Preregistration is required; register by calling the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Management at 970-563-0130. The cost of the class is \$10. Class requirements: Attendees must attend all classes, pass a written test, and demonstrate safe handling of firearms. The class is limited to 20 participants. Class restrictions: Do not bring firearms or ammunition to class; items will be provided. For other classes in the area, please call the Colorado Division of Wildlife for times and locations at 970-247-0855 or visit their website at http://wildlife. state.co.us/Education/HunterEducationCourses.

Free bison meat available to tribal members

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Division of Wildlife Resource Management maintains a small herd of bison for the Tribe's ceremonial, cultural and dietary needs. As a service to the tribal membership, the division makes available bison meat to enrolled Southern Ute tribal members free of charge. Tribal bison are grass-fed at low herd density and are free of artificial hormones and other synthetic chemicals. Bison meat is naturally low in cholesterol and an excellent, healthy alternative to beef. If you are an enrolled Southern Ute tribal member interested in obtaining bison meat for personal use, call the Division of Wildlife at 970-563-0130. Quantities and cuts of meat available may be limited.

Natural Resources to host plan outreach meeting

A Natural Resource Management Plan tribal member outreach meeting will take place March 14 at the Multi-Purpose Facility. Two separate sessions have been scheduled, the first from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and the second from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Individuals may choose one of the two sessions. The purpose of the meeting is to scope for additional feedback from the tribal membership, especially cultural perspectives as they relate to natural resource management.

Thought of being a member of Tribal Council?

Attention tribal members ages 13 to 19 years of age: Are you concerned about issues facing tribal youth? Committed to make a difference in our community that will have a positive impact on the tribal youth? Then the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council may be for you. Become a leader, role model and voice for the tribal youth. For more information, contact McKean Walton at 970-563-0100 ext. 2314. Sponsored by the Southern Ute Tribal Council.

DURANGO

Information sessions for adult learners

Are you ready to earn your bachelor's degree? Learn how at free informational sessions from Fort Lewis College. Sessions will cover opportunities for adult learners at FLC and explain how to enroll and apply for financial aid. Sessions are free and open to the public, and will take place every Wednesday in Program Room 3 at the Durango Public Library from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 970-247-7670.

The Southern Ute
Environmental Programs
is offering free home radon
testing to Tribal members.
Please call Peter Dietrich
for more information
or to schedule an appointment.
Priority to Elders and those
with infants in their homes.
970-563-0135 ext. 2238
pdieth@southern-ute.nsn.us



March 9, 2012



10 Years Ago

Dave Brown/SU DRUM archives

Roderick Grove of the Southern Ute Veterans Association presents an \$80 check to Nelda Martinez, group facilitator for the Southern Ute Tribal Court Juvenile Intervention Program. The money will be used to pay for 20 "activity visits" to the SunUte Community Center by the "kids at risk" who participate in Martinez's program. Also pictured is Southern Ute veteran Pete Gomez, a probation officer with the Tribal Court system.

This photo first appeared in the March 8, 2002, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



20 Years Ago

photo archives/SU DRUM

KSUT started out as a one room, 10-watt, primitive FM station in the mid-'70s. Today, the public radio station serves the entire Four Corners area with a brand new translator in Pagosa Springs.

This photo first appeared in the March 9, 1992, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



30 Years Ago

photo archives/SU DRUM

Kneeling (left to right): Merton Coriz (11), Tom Alires (31), Joe Martinez (13), Myron Baker (15), Sam Lansing (21), Rick Cate (35). Back Row; Larry Birch (23), Alex Cloud (43), Joe Gallegos (51), Brian Vermillion (45), Adrian Lucero (32), and Kevin Kasik. This photo first appeared in the March 12, 1982, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



Attention Tribal Members and Casino Patrons!

Beginning April 2nd the West Front Entrance of Sky Ute Casino will be designated as a

NO PARKING ZONE!

For our guest safety we will begin this procedure. Emergency vehicles must be able to easily enter this area. Also we will implement additional Southern Ute Tribal Elder parking near the front outside circle of the north parking area. All additional special parking areas will be identified. If you are a Southern Ute Tribal Elder and would like to receive a special parking permit to use one of these designated areas around the casino please see the Player Center for details.

All violator's vehicles who do not have a special permit for these areas will be ticketed and towed at owners expense! If you have any questions please call the General Manager's office at 970.563.1351.

THE CASINO APPRECIATES YOUR COOPERATION

Crafting culture





Elise Redd hosted the first in a series of moccasinworkshops making sponsored by the Southern Ute Education Department on Thursday, March 1. The projects begin with buckskin and threadwork, and the final results will include traditional beadwork designs as participants finalize their cultural items. The event was the first of four workshops slated to take place in the Southern Ute Education Building.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Powwow Trails

50th Annual Mul Chu Tha Fair and Powwow March 17

Bluebird • Sacaton, AZ
Contact: Lena Rock
Phone: 602-339-4777
Email: lenarock@yahoo.com

2nd Annual EPICS Benefit Powwow

March 23

2600 Louisana Blvd. NE • Albuquerque, NM
Contact: Ronalda Warito-Tome
Phone: 505-767-6630
Email: ronwartome@hotmail.com

Web: www.epicsnm.org

Denver March Powwow March 23 - 25

Denver Coliseum • Denver, CO

Phone: 303-934-8045

Email: denvermarchpowwow@comcast.net

Web: www.denvermarchpowwow.org

Hozhoni Days Powwow

March 30 - 31

Whalen Gym, Fort Lewis College • Durango, CO

Contact: Myra Britton

Phone: 970-247-3251 or 970-247-7221

Web: www.fortlewis.edu/hozhoni-days-powwow/home.aspx

Spring Contest Powwow and Indian Art Market

CSU Moby Arena, Elizabeth and Shields intersection • Fort Collins, CO
Contact: Northern Colorado Intertribal Powwow Assoc.

Phone: 970.498.0290 or ncipa@fortnet.org

Web:www.fortnet.org/PowWow/NCIPA_powwow.html

Gathering of Nations Powwow April 26 – 28

University of New Mexico's University Arena • Albuquerque, NM
Web: www.gatheringofnations.com

This is your language

'ích<u>a</u>-'ara mʉni 'apaghap<u>i</u> 'ura-'ay

By Tom GivónUte Language Program

3. The sounds and writing of Ute púupa-aqh núuchi po'o-ta-vaa-na

T he sounds of a language – any language – are divided into two main groups: vowels and consonants. Vowels are open sounds, typically produced with the vocal chords vibrating and the airflow through the mouth relatively unobstructed. Consonant are typically produced with some obstruction of the air flow inside the mouth. We will deal first with Ute vowels.

Ute vowels are classified according to three features that, taken together, determine the shape of the oral tract during vowel production: (i) The **height** of the tongue; (ii) The **front-back** position of the tongue; and (iii) **lip rounding** or its absence. Ute has three **high** vowels, /i/, /u/ and /e/; two **mid** vowels, /e/ and /o/, and one **low** vowel, /a/. Of these vowels, /i/ and /e/ are **front** vowels and /u/, /e/ and /o/ are back vowels, and /a/ is a **central** vowel.

Finally, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ are **rounded** vowels, while $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ are **unrounded**. In the following space we will introduce each vowel as it is used in common Ute words.

/a/ low, central, unrounded; as in mamachi woman', 'áapachi boy', ta'wachi man'

/i/ high, front, unrounded; as in *múipuch<u>i</u>* 'small', *púischi-u* 'children', *sí-gwanach<u>i</u>* 'hawk'

/u/ high, back, rounded; as in *puku-n* 'my horse', *túu-kwar<u>#</u>* 'black', *chúuch<u>i</u>* 'pipe' /u/ high, back, unrounded; as in '## 'yes', 't##-'at<u>#</u> 'it's good', t#v#p<u>#</u> 'earth'

/o/ mid, back, rounded; as in *toghoy-aqh* 'it's good', 'aqhot<u>#</u> 'thick', qhóqh 'bull-snake'

/e/ mid, front, rounded; as in pe'e-y 'writing', e'evi 'bone', pete'nichi 'mound', 'low hill'

There are three additional features associated with Ute vowels: (i) **stress** ('accent'); (ii) vowel **length**; and (iii) **silencing**. Dealing with stress first, a Ute word must have one stressed vowel, either the first or

and (iii) **silencing**. Dealing with stress first, a Ute word must have one stressed vowel, either the first or the second vowel in the word. Second-vowel stress is by far most common, found in roughly 90 percent of all Ute words. First-vowel stress is much less common. We thus leave the common second-vowel stress unmarked, and mark only the less common first-vowel stress. As illustrations consider:

first-vowel stress
túu-'atu' 'it's good'
túu-gava 'black horse'
'áapachi 'boy'
pé e 'road'
'íi-pa 'this way'
qhóqh 'bull-snake'

second-vowel stress
'uu'yes'
tuu-gava 'mean horse'
na'achichi 'girl'
'oovi 'bone'
'ipichi 'red clay'
toghoy 'well'

The feature of vowel length ('double vowels') can be seen in many of the examples above. While vowel length does not often make a difference in meaning, it is an important feature of Ute pronunciation.

Finally, silent vowels, written with an underline, are a pervasive feature of both Ute pronunciation and Ute grammar. In general, on a subject noun the final vowel is silent, while on an object noun it is a fully-voiced. Thus compare:

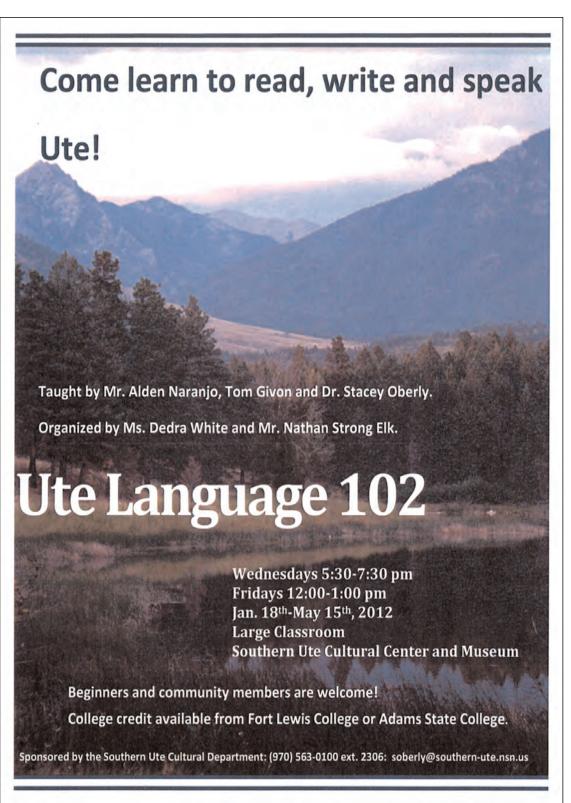
mamach<u>i</u> 'áapachi pʉnikya-qha woman/SUBJ boy/OBJ see-PAST 'The woman saw the boy'

'áapachi mamachi pʉnikya-qha boy/OBJ woman/SUBJ see-PAST 'The boy saw the woman'

kúch<u>u</u> máa-pa pagha'ni buffalo/SUBJ that-way wandering 'the buffalo is wandering that-a-way'

'áapach<u>i</u> kuchu punikya boy/SUBJ buffalo/OBJ see 'The boy sees the buffalo'

In the next column, we will talk about Ute consonant sounds. $\mbox{'} \mbox{u} \mbox{v} \mbox{u} \mbox{s} \mbox{s} - \mbox{gha}.$



The Kidney Corner:

Phosphate and your kidneys

By Dr. Mark Saddler Durango Nephrology Associates

Phosphate is a dietary nutrient that is necessary for optimal function of many cell processes, energy production by cells, and for healthy bone formation.

It is present in many different foods, and dietary deficiency of phosphate is rare. Foods that are particularly high in phosphate include dairy products, meat and beans. Phosphate is particularly high in cola drinks.

There is some evidence that, even in people with normal kidney function, excessive intake of phosphate can cause problems with bones. However, it is kidney disease patients who are at particular risk from high phosphate levels.

Under normal circumstances, phosphate in the diet is easily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, helped by the presence of vitamin D. When the kidneys are healthy, they easily remove excess phosphate, so it's unusual to see abnormally high phosphate levels in people with normal kidney function.

However, when kidney function is impaired, phosphate overload occurs quite frequently. The excess phosphate causes a decrease in the calcium available to make new bone and sets a cascade of events in motion, affecting several hormones that wors-



en the bone problem.

Worse still, the high phosphate levels lead to deposition of calcium in areas of the body where it can cause harm. For example, calcium deposition in blood vessels results in the vessel walls becoming thick and stiff, contributing to cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and decreased perfusion of vital

Calcium deposition in the skin and subcutaneous tissue can also cause a very painful and lifethreatening condition called "calciphylaxis."

So it's very important to avoid phosphate overload in patients with kidney disease. The most important way to try to do this is by reducing the amount of phosphate in the diet.

As anyone who has tried to lose weight by dieting knows, it's difficult to change dietary

habits! But this change is crucial for kidney disease patients with high phosphate levels.

To make matters more complicated, kidney disease patients often need to try to maintain their protein intake while limiting phosphate intake. Dairy products and cola drinks are usually the main issues to avoid; for others, peanuts can be the culprit. A trained kidney dietician can help to individualize a diet plan for kidney disease patients with high phosphate levels.

There are also medications that can help avoid absorption of phosphate from the diet. These medicines bind the dietary phosphate in the gut at the time; so they have to be taken with meals to be effective.

Unfortunately, they can be difficult to take - for one thing, patients have to remember to have the medicine with them every time they eat! Some are not very potent and necessitate taking several tablets with each meal (some patients complain that by the time they have taken five or so phosphate binders before their meal, they're not hungry anymore), and others may have stomach side effects.

For patients on dialysis, an increase in dialysis time can help with phosphate control by removing more of the phosphate with each dialysis treatment.

The cutting edge of fitness



March 9, 2012

Fitness trainer and Southern Ute tribal member Ian Thompson shows off one of the exercise platforms on the new Cybex equipment stations at the SunUte Community Center on Friday, Feb. 24. After 10 years of operations, SunUte has upgraded its fitness equipment. Thanks to the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council, the facility's goal of staying on the cutting edge of physical training has been realized with the purchase of the new equipment.

Ready, set, Zumba



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Claudette Watts opens her afternoon Zumba sessions at the SunUte Community Center to the energetic youth of the Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on Thursday, Feb. 23.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month Understanding social relationships after a brain injury

San Juan Basin Health Dept.

The public is invited to a special presentation on March 14 for Brain Injury Awareness Month.

"Understanding Relationships after Injury" will take place from 4 to

News release 5:30 p.m. at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Meeting Room A. Dr. Valerie Stone, a nationally recognized expert on social and cognitive deficits, will speak and answer questions on Social Traumatic Brain Injury during

Brain this state-wide webinar event.

ularly helpful for TBI survivors, caregivers, family and health care professionals. It is sponsored by the San Juan Basin Health Department's Community Care Team and Southwest Center for Independence.

RSVP to Sharon at 970-259-The webinar aims to be partic- 1672 ext. 2 by Friday, March 9.

Photography, Art & Poetry Contest

Help our community become of how important our water is to everyone here in Colorado by sharing your talents. Please submit a short poem or story with artwork (photograph, drawing, paintings, ect.) on a single page. Please keep entries to an 8 1/2" x 11' page with your name and phone number attached. If you are a student, please include your current grade. Winners will be chosen and prizes will be awarded.

Submit your work in person, by mail or email by March 26th to: Ignacio Community Library 470 Goddard Ave., P.O Box 886, Ignacio, CO 81137, or email to dcook@ignaciolibrary.org.

Happy birthday wishes

Off Piedra Road — Look for "Smiles" the Red Truck

FREE Sonicare Toothbrush

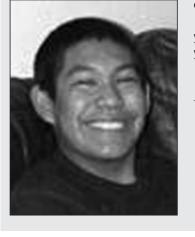
New patients receive a FREE Sonicare with exam & x-rays

For existing patients — bring us a new patient (friend, family or coworker) for exam and x-rays and BOTH of you get a FREE Sonicare

offer expires 3/31/2012







To my lovely son Stais, Sixteen years old, WOW!

Happy 16th Birthday!

blessed with your birth.

to come in the future.

wonderful memories.

your amazing birthday.

ment and adventures.

mistakes but learn from them. It gives me pleasure to wish you a day full of joy and happi-

ness, and may you have many

Tomorrow you will remember

May you continue on your

journey to a life full of wonder-



Happy birthday wishes

We would like to extend your belated birthday wishes to our dad, grandpa and great-grandpa Bennett whose birthday was on the March 2.

To our nephews, great nephews and sons: Jesus, who turned 6 on March 1 and Stephen, who turned 1 on March 3.

We love you guys so much and pray that the good lord watches over you all the time.

Dad, you are the best dad, who is so kind and generous and to you little runts, you have grown so much and someday you will have your own sons to love.

Love always, Luana, Becky, Frank, Keith, Shawn, JoGenia, Elena and Abel, your aunts, uncles, brothers and cousins

To my crazy brother Stais, Happy 16th Birthday! Have fun on your birthday J From lit brother,

A Happy birthday wish: To my brother Stais, Happy BIG 16th Birthday I'm sad when I'm not with you and I LOVE YOU! J

> From sister, Autumn-Bahozho

Southern Ute Education Department Southern Ute tribal students of the month

Introducing a special recognition program for the young and talented Southern Ute students attending Ignacio public schools! The Southern Ute Education staff is looking for you! We know you are there, and we want to recognize two students a month for all their hard work and kindness given to others. Check the Drum each month and listen to KSUT for the announcement of the next honored students as well as an interview. It could be you! Way to go! Pending the success of this new program, SUED may extend this recognition to other local school districts in the fall. Stay tuned!



Adelle Hight

to Working Adults in Remote Areas

Virgil Caldwell, Utah State University.

HOW CareerReady® MIGHT AID

Chloe Wiebe, Colorado Workforce

English-language learners in the 21st century

Vorkshop or presentation proposals accepted until ebruary 28, 2012. Sessions may vary from 1 to 2

P.O. Box 710, Ignacio, CO, 81137

8th grade, Ignacio Jr. High

Parents/Grandparents: Danielle Hight/Sammy

"I feel language and art are my strongest subjects in school, because I like to read."

Adelle likes to travel and her favorite place she has been to was Hawaii.

"I want to go to college and study marine biology because I enjoy the ocean and I am interested in learning about all the animals that live in the ocean waters."

Teacher comment: Adelle has a very positive attitude and always willing to laugh. She is a hard worker, has good focus, and has earned a lot of respect from teachers and students. She is a very "colorful person" in the way she acts and dresses. She is a super, awesome kid. Adelle is wonderful to have in class. Her teachers comment that she is a joy to be around.

"I have been nominated for the Southern Ute Student of the month because I help people feel better about themselves by talking to them and helping with their problems."



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Natelle Thompson

12th grade, Ignacio High School

Father Shawn Thompson; Grandmother Lavara Thompson and Grandfather Bennett Thompson.

Mother Sophie Wilson; Grandmother Theresa Stokes and Grandfather Ramon Wilson.

"My strongest class would be Civics, because it is an interesting class."

"I believe I was chosen because I pushed myself as far as I could get my grades up so I could to get my grades up so I could walk with my class. It was hard, and at one point I thought I wasn't going to graduate. But now I'm passing all my classes with A's and B's and don't have to worry about not graduating but I did it."

County offices & Extensions

WWW.PRCLC.ORG

In bringing professionals from such diverse

aims to deepen educational outcomes, clarify

mutual goals and resources, and expand part-

nerships for broader public impact. We have so

much to learn from each other: doing so means

Professionals

inds to a common table, the Con

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y



Southern Ute tribal member Kayden Box will represent the Ignacio Intermediate School in the State Spelling Bee in Denver, on Saturday, March 10. Box, a sixth-grader at the school, is the first student from Ignacio in recent memory to earn this high honor. Box stands for a quick photo with spelling bee accolades in Ignacio on Thursday, March *1, prior to the competition.*

photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Education update

Education announces GED test dates

The Department of Education would like to announce the GED test dates for the upcoming months: April 6 and May 4. The test is held the first Friday of every month at the Southern Ute Education Building at 330 Burns Ave. Registration and payments are due by Tuesday before the test. Scholarships are available for Native Americans who live within 50 miles of the service area, spend 12 hours in class, score a 450 on practice tests and submit paperwork two weeks in advance. For more information, call Pine River Community Learning Center at 970-563-0681 or Donna Broad at 970-563-0237 or 970-749-1953.

The GED test will be changing January 2014. All previous test scores will be thrown out and students will need to retake all sections. It is important that students complete all 5 sections of their GED before the January 2014 date.

Education Dept. community class for April

• Dress and ribbon shirt workshop: Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m

Participants will learn to measure, cut out and sew a simple ribbon dress, or a ribbon shirt. Participants will receive the material and the ribbons to complete your project. Participants must know how to operate a sewing machine and have basic sewing skills.

For more information, and to sign up, call Luana Herrera at the Department of Education 970-563-0237.

Dorothy Gore Scholarship available

The Dorothy Gore Scholarship sponsored by PEO Chapter CS is available to any La Plata County graduating senior girl who has shown academic promise, leadership potential, serves her community and has at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average. This \$1000 scholarship honors Dorothy Gore, a retired, longtime Durango teacher. Although priority is given to applicants to Cottey College, all applicants to an academic college are considered. Cottey College is a two-year women's college in Nevada, Missouri, owned by the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Applications are available at high school counseling offices or by requesting a copy from PEO Chapter CS Philanthropic Committee at jeaninegae@gmail.com. The application deadline is April 16.

Spring Break schedules

Ignacio School District: April 2 - 9 Southern Ute Indian Academy & Head Start: April 2 – 6 **Bayfield School District: March 26 – 30** Ignacio School District schools will return on Tuesday, April 10



At this second annual event, community-based

organizations from across the southwest will be

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Misc.

Tribal eyes on tribal skies • from page 1



Air Quality Scientist Kyle Hunderman and Air Quality Program Manager Brenda Jarrell in a meeting with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission on Thursday, March 1 in the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building.

Ute Tribe will be the first tribe ever to have Part 70 oversight," so called because of the legal

provision that allows the transfer. There are currently 44 permitted stationary major sources on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation — predominantly in the oil and gas industry, according to Air Quality Scientist Kyle Hunderman. The tribe will look to transition those permits into the tribal program over the next three years, he said, as well as adding new ones.

"Before, an applicant would apply to Region 8 based out of Denver," he said. "What will happen now is they will actually go to the tribe's Air Quality Program website and get their applications there, and submit directly to the tribe."

Hunderman said the reaction among operators has been largely positive. Bringing the program home "will provide reservation residents and affected companies with the benefits of local regulation, including responsiveness, agility and accessibility," he said.

Apart from the look of the permits, local companies should expect no substantive change in the regulations with which they're expected to comply, Hunderman said. The EPA will continue to review the program and ensure it's being run fully and well, just as it does for states, he said.

— the Air Quality Program will begin collecting fees based on emissions at each source — but that money is restricted by statute to sustaining the program and cannot be used elsewhere.

A long time coming

Under the previous arrangement, the EPA served as the permitting authority on behalf of the tribe. But for years, the tribe has been making efforts to increase its role.

In 1999, the tribe and the State of Colorado signed an intergovernmental agreement that President George W. Bush later signed into law, creating the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission in 2004. That group, composed of three tribal and three state commissioners, allowed both entities to weigh in on EPA issues.

The next step was an application for full oversight of operating permits on reservation lands. The tribe and the EPA went back and forth several times on specific regulations and issues of staffing and capacity, said Carl Daly, director of EPA Region 8's Air Program.

"This is a real similar process to what we did with all of our states. We used a similar checklist of things that the tribe's application had to cover," he said.

Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council Chairman Jimmy R. Newton Jr. said the successful transfer of authority has taken years and the efforts of many tribal members and staffers.

"EPA approval of this program There is a financial component is an achievement that was envisioned by many past tribal leaders, and is the culmination of extensive cooperation among the tribe, EPA, State of Colorado, La Plata County, and oil and gas industry operators," he said.

Looking after its own

In a modern world where tribes must work diligently to protect and nurture their sovereignty, taking over air quality permitting under Part 70 is another pioneering effort by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; one that allows it local authority over its local air.

That thought was not far distant from the Air Quality team during the years it took to make it happen, Jarrell said.

"We wanted, in the tribe's interest, to maintain sovereignty," she said. "We wanted to maintain that local tribal control."

Newton said air quality in the area will benefit from the protection of the tribe's program.

"The tribe looks forward to administering the program in a manner that ensures protection of the reservation air shed and contributes positively to regional air quality," Newton said.

Martin, whose signature made the transfer official, said it wouldn't have happened unless the EPA had faith the tribe could handle the responsibility well.

"The assumption of this program is a step forward for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the environment," he said. "EPA's approval reflects the tribe's exceptional effort to build the expertise and capacity to manage air quality on the reservation."

For more information on the Air Quality program and its activities, visit www.southernute.nsn.us/air-quality.

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KSUT's drive thrives



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

March 9, 2012

KSUT Tribal Radio DJs Lorena Richards and Alberta Bison set up to receive callers and donations for their annual "membership" drive in the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building's Hall of Warriors on Wednesday, March 7. The one-day drive hauled in \$2,629 in pledges. Velma Armijo won a powwow package including a trip to the *Denver March Powwow. The next fund drive is slated for March 27 – 29.*





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March 9, 2012 naveekyaveini (7)

Sanford's rally shocks Ignacio • from page 1



The Ignacio Bobcats go through post-game handshakes with the Sanford Indians after falling 61-53 in the Saturday, March 3 2A-Region III Tournament championship in Durango. IHS's 2011-12 season ended at 18-5 overall, while SHS improved to 20-5 entering this weekend's State Championships in Pueblo.

Jefferson (15 points) finished yet another Bobcat three-point play with 1:18 left, after being fouled by backup Dalton Rodriguez, but two Larsen FTs (with 0:03 left) again kept Sanford's engine revving.

And his fourth trey put it into gear, 6:56 left in the game. After Richmond's last basket, Jarvies answered with SHS's seventh long-ranger, cutting IHS's lead to 53-45. Three-pointers numbers eight and nine, both by Jarvies, pulled Sanford back to 53-51 with 4:36 left, and then put the Indians ahead 54-53.

"They keep pushing the pace, keep wearing you down. They did a great job," said Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez. "Hats off to them; they're going to do a great job at the state tournament. They're going to compete, play great defense, and they have no quit in them."

"We just stuck it out; we don't quit," said Jarvies, who totaled 19 points. "Played as a team, and got some good team shots in the fourth. We practice those shots every day, and they just fell tonight."

A Rodriguez free throw put SHS up by four, with only 59 seconds left, and as IHS's shots failed to fall — including late three-point tries by Richmond and senior Matthew Silva — Sanford found themselves promptly headed back to the stripe as fouls were committed in hopes of saving time.

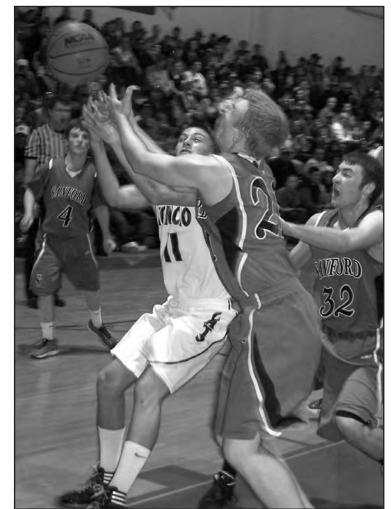


photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Clayton Jefferson (11) goes neck-and-neck with Sanford's Josh Jarvies (21) and Stetson Edgar (32) for a ball near the baseline during the Saturday, March 3 2A-Region III Tournament championship game in Durango.

Building on a win over West Grand (Kremmling), Sanford out-attempted Ignacio (who'd ousted Crowley County 67-54) 16-2 from the charity line in the

fourth quarter, finishing 19-of-32 to the Bobcats' 4-of-8, and capped the contest with a make by Edgar (nine points).

> Herrera finished with four points, but Jones and Kelton Richmond made just a hoop each, and senior Xavier Watts was held scoreless. Shane Richmond ended his season-long assault, and his career, with a game-high 30.

> "Shane's just a scoring machine. I've never coached a kid anywhere even close," Valdez said. "He can score with anybody, and we just had a hard time getting him the ball down the stretch. That was our biggest problem; he did everything he could for us."

> "Let's face it: We're not deep. ... Our guys got tired, were getting beat defensively," he added. "When they'd go out to help, [Sanford would] go to the corners to wide-open, good shooters, and they didn't miss anything late in the game."

> "It was nice being here in Durango again. ... [It] would have been nicer to win it all. But it was still a good year," said Richmond, as Ignacio finished an abbreviated 18-5.

Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez (standing), assistant Shane

Seibel (right, seated) and the Bobcat bench wear expressions of concern as Sanford and guard Calder Larsen (left) run down to set up their offense during a frenzied fourth quarter on Saturday, March 3 in Durango. Via a 22-2 fourth, SHS prevailed 61-53 in the 2A-Region III Tournament, securing a spot in this weekend's State Championships in Pueblo.

Ignacio High School 2012 baseball schedule

	99-	_							
Marc	ch				21	Dove Creek	Α	V/V	11 a.m.
15-17 Piedra Vista Tourney		Α	V	TBA	24	Dolores	Α	V/V	1 p.m.
22	Pagosa Springs	Н	V/JV	1 p.m.	28	Nucla	Н	V/V	11 a.m.
27	Sargent	Α	V	3 p.m.	May				
Apri	l				1	Bayfield	Α	V/V	2 p.m.
10	Dove Creek	Н	V	4:30 p.m.	5	Districts	TBD		
12	Pagosa Springs	Α	V/JV	1 p.m.	11-	12 Regionals	TBD		
14	Dolores	Н	V/JV	11 a.m.	18-19 State		TBD		
17	Nucla	Α	V/JV	1 p.m.	Districts, Regionals and State are to be determined.				

Lady Cats make valiant exit

Sports

By Joel Priest Special to the Drum

A Prentiss became the master. It was for just a quarter, but it was long enough to give Denver Christian a seemingly safe halftime pad. The only problem facing the Lady Crusaders inside Colorado Mesa University's Brownson Arena was that they were against an underdog in the Lady Cats, one with a known track record of climbing out of holes, and one who made sure to pack all the right tools for a return to Grand Junction and a repeat go-round against a big city squad in regionals.

"We have a couple trick defenses we threw at them that worked," said Ignacio boss Brice Searles. "Our girls played a heck of a second half. If we could only combine that with the first half, I think we would be walking out of here with that 'W' in our bag."

But despite seven missed free throws and nine missed layups, with six seconds left on Wayne Nelson Court, victory — or overtime — was suddenly still possible. Junior Valerie Armstrong alertly tied up Merissa Prentiss (12 ppg) to gain the possession arrow, and Searles drew up a play in IHS's huddle.

Not only did it break a 75-percent-intense press, but the ball found the hands of the only Lady Bobcat to connect from beyond the arc in the contest: Armstrong, whose make had sliced the Lady Crusaders' lead to 34-33 (once an imposing 23-8 at intermission, thanks to Prentiss' 10 second-period points) with 2:31 left.

An infraction with 0:35 remaining, ruled an intentional foul against Ignacio junior Michelle Simmons, had allowed DC senior Ryleigh Newcombe to make a free throw, but Denver Christian was unable to capitalize on the bonus possession. Nor huge for us. She's really not a on two more, gained via fouls whistled on IHS's Pam Cotton, all season," said DC head coach the latter coming with only 11 seconds left.

But upon receiving the ball on the right wing at the three-point line, Armstrong found herself immediately blanketed and her vision toward the hoop completely obscured by DC senior Christina Drost, playing a dangerous gamble that left Simmons (seven points, six rebounds, four steals) open in the paint.

Forced into Plan B, Armstrong passed to sophomore Cloe Seibel on the left wing — a good alternative, as Seibel had tied the score late in the first quarter (which ended at 6-6) with a 17footer. But by the time Seibel (eight points, seven rebounds) squared up to the basket, the buzzer sounded and ended IHS's



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Pam Cotton (23) finds a window of opportunity between Denver Christian's Eliza Walker (left), Christina Drost (rear) and Jerika Schmitt (right) during the Friday, March 22A-Region V Tournament game in Grand Junction. IHS fell 35-33 in an improved (over last season) trip to Colorado Mesa University's Brownson Arena.

2011-12 season, 35-33 in the 2A-Region V semifinals.

Cotton, a junior, was most crucial in the near-miss, holding DC junior Jerika Schmitt — a steady 14-ppg scorer — to an alarming zero, while booking three points, 10 boards and two blocked shots herself. Fellow forward Mariah Vigil, often called upon to help defensively, fought for a team-high 10 points, six coming in the Lady Bobcats' fantastic fourth.

"Ali Lammers stepped up 'scorer' if you look at her stats Becky Mudd of her senior, who notched all eight Lady Crusader points in the third, "so thank goodness for her! Hit a couple shots [two threes] there that, at least, kept us in it, but they battled right to the end. Give them credit for that."

"No question," agreed Searles, recalling last season's drubbing against Lutheran (Parker). "They had such a comfort level about them that was just so mellow. There was no nerves, nothing that would even equate to nervousness. Just had a confidence about them that was really good to see."

"We came out really slow in the first half," Vigil said. "It was like we were getting down on ourselves. We went into the locker room and we're like, 'We need to bring this up!' So that's what we did, and in the second half we played as a team."

Armstrong accounted for Ignacio's other five points, while Prentiss led all with 16. Lammers finished with nine, Newcombe six, and Drost and freshman Nicole Landhuis two points

"The girls just came up just a little bit short," Searles said, with IHS ending 10-11 overall. "Not of effort, or desire. ... What they did in the second half, there was no question they played a winning game."

Beaten by a bucket the following afternoon, 58-56, by Pueblo Events Center-bound Paonia, DC's fortunes fizzled out at 17-6. The 22-1 Lady Eagles later received the No. 1 seed in the "Great Eight" and faced Region III champs Del Norte to continue their quest for a state championship.

In fact, only Norwood's Lady Mavericks — not 2A Ridgway, nor even 2A Dolores — will represent the San Juan Basin League in the season's final weekend. With a 37-20 win over Belleview Christian (Westminster) in Glenwood Springs, NHS (21-1) earned the 2-seed in Class 1A, pitting them against No. 7 Kim at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland.



Southern Ute Youth Turkey Hunt April 28-29, 2012

The Southern Ute Wildlife Division and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) are sponsoring a Youth Turkey Hunt on Tribal lands on April 28th and 29th, 2012. Our goal is to educate and encourage Tribal Member youth about hunting and outdoor activities on the Reservation. The Hunt will be filmed and broadcast on NWTF's Turkey Call television show.



Requirements:

- √ 12 to 17 years old (after April 28th 1995 and before April 28th 2000)
- **Passed Hunter Education**
- **Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member**

In addition, the Wildlife Division is interested in recruiting experienced adult Tribal Member turkey hunters to serve as mentors for the youth hunters.

Please contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130 for more information, to register, or volunteer.



Men at work • from page 1



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Southern Ute Tribal Housing Department Director Mel Baker goes over some basic construction practices with Julius Baker, a construction repair tech trainee, during a training session on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

emphasis lately brought to bear by tribal leadership: In a Feb. 21 directors meeting, the Executive month terms under a program run Office gave instructions to department heads to create training positions for tribal members wherever possible, to teach marketable

Baker's focus mirrors an skills and create employment.

The Tribal Housing trainees are working approximately sixby the Southern Ute Tribal Employment Rights Office. The tribe's Human Resources and Education departments offer sim-

ilar programs.

But it's not a free ride, Baker said — his trainees are expected to abide by policy at all times and put in a day's work for a day's pay.

"It's really an opportunity for them, but they've got to meet us halfway," he said.



Announcing the 2012 Young Native Writers Essay Contest

The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation is proud to welcome entries for the Young Native Writers Essay Contest, which we organize each year in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. This essay contest for Native American high school students is designed to encourage young Native Americans to think about the most important issues affecting their tribal communities, as well as ways in which challenges can be addressed. Hundreds of Native American high school students participate each year. While all participants receive a Certificate of Honor for submitting their essays and adding their voices to this important dialogue in Indian Country, the five first-place winners are awarded an all-expenses-paid "Scholar Week" trip to Washington, D.C., accompanied by a teacher or mentor nominated by each winner, to visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other prominent Washington, D.C. sites. Each winner also receives a \$2,500 college scholarship. Please help us spread the word about this year's contest by forwarding this email to groups and individuals who might be interested in submitting an essay. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2012. We look forward to reading this year's essays! For more details please visit: http://www.nativewriters.hklaw.com/

Powwow dos and don'ts



photo Ace Stryker/SU DRUM

The Southern Ute Royalty Committee recently hosted a pair of powwow etiquette and protocol workshops for tribal members — one for women on Tuesday, Feb. 21; and another for men on Tuesday, Feb. 28 — at the Multi-Purpose Facility. The sessions include information on regalia, drums, veterans, and other integral parts of the powwow experience. The whole host of Southern Ute Royalty poses with visiting Miss Jicarilla Tyland Anderson (above) during the women's workshop; Miss Southern Ute Brianna GoodTracks-Alires (left) leads the group in a grand entry ceremony to kick things off.

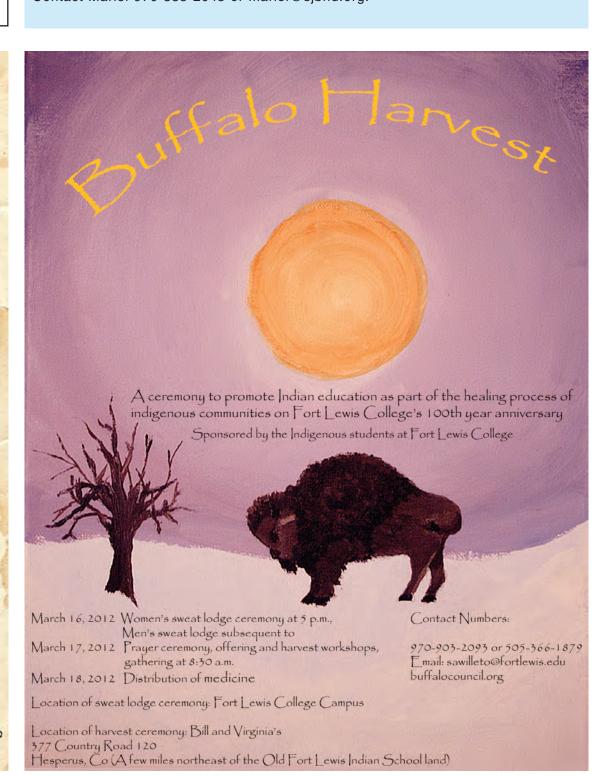


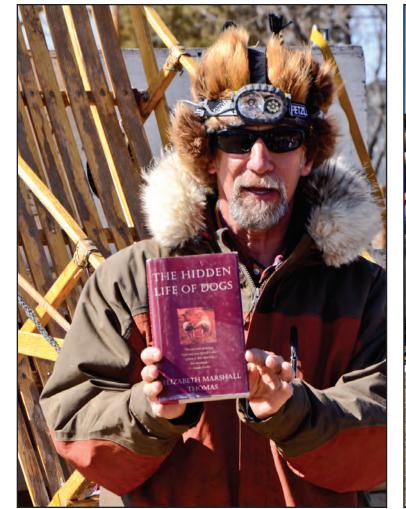
photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

PeaceJam youth working on secondhand smoke

Lasso Tobacco Coalition is working with PeaceJam Ignacio Boys and Girls Club on creating a 100 foot tobacco-abuse free zone around all SunUte Community Center property. They are currently designing a logo and message for a t-shirt. In March, they will conduct monitoring of second-hand smoke in outside areas. Contact Mariel 970-335-2045 or mariel@sjbhd.org.











Here comes the sun

After spending the long winter months cooped up indoors, local students finally came out into the sun in a big way in late February and March, shuttling from one fun, fascinating event to another so fast the Drum staff could hardly keep up.

Sled dogs return to Ignacio

In its 12th year, the Durango Dog Ranch returns to the Ignacio Intermediate School to give students a hands-on outdoor sled dog presentation on Monday, March 5. Timing their visit with the start of the famous Iditarod race in Alaska, Dog Ranch owners Gregg and Gretchen Dubit wowed students with tales of the time-honored and often-extreme sport of dog sled racing. Students were allowed an opportunity to make one-on-one connections with the sled dogs following the presentation with up-close visits.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

In honor of hard work





Ignacio Intermediate School students whoqualified for the honor roll with grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher were given an extra pat on the back during the "Honor Roll Breakfast" on Tuesday, March 6. Students gave short presentations at the podium before their parents and faculty, following a buffet-style breakfast. Johnny Valdez Jr. (left) recapped highlights from his well-received science fair project.





Kids raise \$1K for cancer



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

The Ignacio Intermediate School concluded its Pennies for Patients drive and was excited to announce that students raised \$1043.21 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The money raised will help children who are struggling to overcome leukemia, a form of blood cancer. The fund drive took place in February and the Student Council organized, promoted and counted all the money. Council members stand together with their fundraising tally board on Thursday, March 1 for a group photo.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM









Rainforest life comes to Ignacio

Tim Davison shared a host of rainforest animals with Ute Indian Southern Montessori Academy and Head Start students on Wednesday, March 7 as part of the travelling exposition, "Wildlife Encounters: Wonders of the Rainforest." Among his entourage of exotic creatures were a green-winged macaw, golden knee tarantula, green iguana, yellow python, and a raccoon-like mammal known as a "coatimundi" named Rosco. Students were given an opportunity to get their hands on the large yellow snake, named Banana. Davison's message: Plant a tree in the name of conservation and don't ask your parents for exotic pets.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM











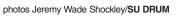




It's fun to have fun



Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy celebrates the works of Dr. Seuss with each passing year. Older students are encouraged to read aloud to the younger audience, while teachers also chip in with storybook sharing. In the name of the famous author, characters from better-known works visit each of the classrooms. Characters played by Academy faculty included the Grinch, Thing 2, and the infamous Cat in the Hat. Spring snow flurries set the mood for this lively reading activity held on Friday, March 2.









A budding meteorologist



Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy student Lakota Two Crows is the first to take advantage of the school's newest meteorological program on Friday, Feb. 24. Sponsored with equipment from the Durango Discovery Museum and in cooperation with the Southern Ute Air Quality team, students will have the opportunity to spend some of their classroom time outside collecting basic meteorological data and compiling the results using wireless technology. Data points include temperature, wind speed/direction, and precipitation from rainfall and snow.







Science in motion



After-school students enjoy hands-on science related activities at the Southern Ute Education Department on Thursday, March 1 under the guidance and instruction of the Durango Discovery Museum and its staff. Physics, electronics, and an old-fashioned balloon race featured in the students' projects, mostly tackled by way of collaborative partnership.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Patio sells 'hearts' for kids

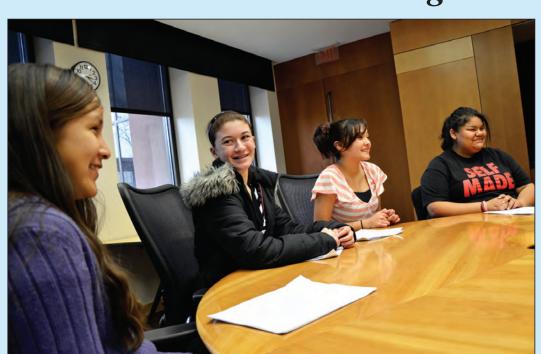




Ignacio's ThePatio Restaurant finished its annual "Patio Hearts" sale on Friday, Feb. 24. Pink paper hearts sold for \$1 apiece, with proceeds going to support specific projects through the Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Restaurant owner Emily Meisner and her waitresses — Arielle Geist, Stephanie Ludwig, Coleen Moreta, Kristin Raby and Shana Cundiff — helped sell the hearts, with Cundiff taking the top sales crown in the fourth year of the event. The restaurant raised a total of \$389 for the club. Club members celebrate with an ice cream party (top); Meisner (left) shows off the restaurant's contribution.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Students: We want Bridges





photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

In the wake of Black History Month, seventh-grade students from an Ignacio Junior High School language arts class made an informational presentation to the Southern Ute Tribal Council and Southern Ute Education Department on Thursday, March 1 expressing interest in having Ruby Bridges visit their school. Bridges was the first black student to be fully integrated into the public school system following the Civil Rights Movement. Pictured (left to right): Zehrena Antez, Ryley Webb, Jaylynn Herrera, and Alana Watts read their individual presentations out loud. Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council Chairman Jimmy R. Newton Jr. and Councilman Aaron V. Torres listen attentively. The students also made their case for funding the presentation at the Ignacio School Board meeting on Thursday, March 8.

Voices

Fly-fishing with a forgotten friend

By Don Oliver Special to the Drum

Recently the Dallas chapter of Men Who Fly-fish invited me to Texas for two days of fly-fishing.

It was a typical MWFF outing. There was whisky drinking, cigar smoking, Redman chewing, card playing, and some fly-fishing. However, unbeknownst to me, a long-forgotten friend had been invited for the first day of fishing.

Any old geezer who has been fly-fishing before the invention of float tubes, inflatable boats, kayaks, and belly boats knows this friend: the canoe. It's a friend many of us have fished with, from small bass ponds to the lakes of Canada.

When our guide picked us up, I recognized my old friend strapped to the top of the truck. The guide had also brought a kayak and a three-person inflatable boat. My heart skipped a beat at the sight of my old friend, and I immediately begin to plot how I could be assigned to fish with it.

As the canoe was being gently lifted off the truck I realized it wasn't an old aluminum model, but a restored wood-and-canvas canoe. It deserved to be treated with the kind of respect a most senior statesman



demands; its bottom was never to touch anything but water.

When my friend was placed in the water, I grabbed a life jacket, a wooden paddle, pointed at one of the other fly-fisherman, said "You're with me," then bullied my way beside my old friend and claimed it for the day. The other fisherman and I gently loaded our gear into the canoe, took our places, and eased away from the dock. Then all the memories of days gone by came flooding back.

Fly-fishing from a canoe is an art. Your casts have to be gentle and deliberate. A cast made with a minimal amount of body movement will keep the canoe stable and the fish ignorant of your presence. At all times, both fisherman have to remain balanced. Standing up in a canoe, or trying launch a 60-foot double-hauled cast, will most assuredly result in having the big open side facing down.

Paddling also requires a coordinated effort. If the fishermen in the bow and stern are not working as one, they will go nowhere. (Maybe our congressmen and women should learn how to canoe.)

When working together, the paddling effort becomes a beautiful thing to watch. It makes it possible to guide the old friend into countless little coves where big fish are hiding. And the fish will not suspect that the flies being presented to them are coming from two people who have moved silently into the protected shallows.

I truly had forgotten how much fun it is to maneuver and propel my old friend. Sitting there surrounded by wood thwarts and gunwales, with my feet resting on the beautifully finished wood ribs, it was easy to remember flyfishing days of old.

Fly-fishing that one day with my old compadre reminded me of how much I'd forgotten, and how much I still have to learn about life and fly-fishing.

Never again will I let so much time go by without fly-fishing with, and from, this old friend.

Who am I?

One way, one truth, one life

By Tim Yaw Nuuciu Bible Baptist Church

Greetings everyone! We have come a long way in our investigation of genuine love, which culminated in the last article when we proved that real love is sacrificial love, which puts others' needs and feelings ahead of our own.

We found this love can only come from God, who orchestrates it through us. But in order for that to happen, we must be in the proper relationship with him. This proper relationship involves recognizing God as the creator of our present existence and facilitator of our eternal existence.

Our investigation has proven that our sinful nature is not compatible with God's holy and righteous nature. Until our nature is reconciled to God's nature, a proper relationship with him is impossible.

We learned that through God's sacrifice of himself in the name of Jesus Christ, our sin debt (separation from God both now and forever) was paid through the heartfelt belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This belief involves admitting to God we are sinners, asking for forgiveness of those sins, and being willing to change by asking God to come into us and be our life, thus making the change we are unable to make under our own power.

By trusting that God will forgive us and being obedient to his will, we are brought into the proper relationship desired by God. This offer of reconciliation is a gift from God and available to every human being.

A statement made by the Godman, Jesus Christ, when he walked the Earth, has created a great controversy in the world today. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by [through] me."

It is controversial because of the philosophy that is so prevalent today that teaches we all can find our own way to any higher power above us. Our investigation has proven there is only one living God, and he is sovereign over his creation. Since God is

sovereign, he sets the standards for us to follow.

In lieu of simply destroying his created sinful humans, because of his sacrificial love, God chose to save them into a loving relationship with him. God did this by taking human form and coming into his creation.

We have already seen that as this man, Jesus Christ — God was 100 percent man while still being 100 percent God. Through Jesus' atoning action, the standard was set whereby all humans must go through Jesus, by means of faith, to be reconciled with God.

Simply put: One God plus one sacrifice equals one way to God.

What about Jesus' statement of being "the truth"? Talking to God, Jesus said, "Oh righteous Father, the world has not known you: but I have known you and these have known that you have sent me."

God, being sovereign, was his own witness on Earth. He taught and explained himself and his purpose to hundreds of thousands of people, the majority of whom believed his message. Through these ancient witnesses' testimonies and the convincing of God's Holy Spirit, the truth is still proclaimed today.

Because God is holy, he is not able to lie or deceive, because his perfect goodness will not allow him to do so. Manmade philosophies and teachings are aimed at defaming this truth in an effort to essentially put God aside in order to become one's own god.

This is the pride of man we discussed in past articles, and we proved that pride is the root of our sin and our major problem in reconciling with God. Absolute truth is something that is true for all people, in all places, all the time.

Isn't this what God offers to his humankind? God's revelation of himself is the truth simply because of his nature. When we think we are smarter than God, we become fools unto our own destruction!

Simply put: One God plus one way equals one truth.

So since belief in Jesus is the only way to God and only the truth will make you free, isn't it logical that life would come from God through Jesus Christ?

Clarification between existence and life is essential at this point. Humans have an existence but are void of life. We exist in search of something to keep us going: life.

Some get life from a bottle of whiskey, some from illegal drugs, some from a relationship with the opposite sex, some from their occupation, and some from their possessions. All these ways are temporary, and when a person makes something their reason for existence and loses it, they are then dead in their existence and begin searching for new life, or in drastic cases, end their existence.

You see, God puts a void inside of us to fill. Temporary fillings with the things of this world give temporal life and separate us from God. But filling that void with a proper relationship with God gives eternal life.

So now you can see that forming a god to fit your lifestyle is not only no god at all, it is fruitless because you still have to fill that void with worldly things. Why not recognize God for who he is, believe in the truth of Jesus, and let him give himself to you through his Holy Spirit?

This is true life now and forever: God living in you and guiding you by his truth and preparing you to exist with him forever. God should not be part of your life; rather, he should be your life. Stop seeking worldly life and gain eternal life beginning in this existence through Jesus.

Simply put: One God plus one way plus one truth equals one life in God.

I pray that this series of articles has opened your heart and made you ask God to show you more. If you ask him, God will proudly show you more about himself. The Bible tells us that if we seek, we will find God and he will share his love and wisdom with us.

Past investigation has produced evidence God is a personable spirit existing as three persons, all of one holy and righteous nature, in order to interact with us. The three persons of God are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Investigation of these persons of God will be the focus of the next issue's article.

Change is coming to Tribal Credit

Media release

Southern Ute Tribal Credit Division

A new loan program will replace the existing consumer loan program on April 2.

Other types of loans from Tribal Credit will no longer be available and have been suspended. The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council may consider expanding the types of loans offered by Tribal Credit in the future, but until that time, the line of credit is the only program available.

The Emergency Loan Program under the Executive Office will be discontinued as of March 16.

For specific questions, call Tribal Credit at 970-563-4744.

The major provisions of the line of credit are as follows:

- Tribal Members 18 and older.
- Maximum amount of \$8,000.
- · Payments made from tribal distributions.
- If tribal distributions are already committed, amounts available to loan may be reduced.
- Repayment period will be no more than three years (36 months).
- Draws on the line of credit will be no less than \$1,000 and will not exceed the total credit available.
- Loans may be paid directly to the tribal member.
- Interest rate shall be 5 percent.
- Loan processing fees will be 1 percent of the amount of the loan. • Approval for loans will be based on the tribal member's ability to pay for the loan from tribal distributions. Information on other income and debt will not be collected nor considered in approving or denying revolving line of credit loans.
- Approvals will be made by Tribal Credit/Finance staff.

Visit SkyUteCasino.com for more information! *This show contains adult content and is 14324 Hwy 172 N. Ignacio, CO 81137 970-563-7777 www.skyutecasino.com

Del Alma to host 3rd annual 'Around the World' children's fair

Durango Adult Education Center

Del Alma, a program of the Durango Adult Education Center, is pleased to invite children from Kindergarten through fifth grade to take part in the third annual "Around the World" Children's Fair on Saturday, March 31.

The one-day event will expose children to numerous countries around the world and teach them the importance of multicultural education. The fair will feature international games, activities,

Media release crafts, food and entertainment for the entire family. More than 12 different countries will be highlighted in which children can visit with their "passports."

> The fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the La Plata County Fairgrounds. The cost is \$5 per child.

The Children's Fair is a fundraiser for Del Alma to raise funds for the Alma Afterschool program, Ballet Folklorico de Durango, and the Prejudice Elimination Action Team at Durango High School. The programs are based on the principles of positive youth development, an approach that supports children and youth to be engaged and reach their full potential.

Del Alma focuses on the development of children's inherent strengths to promote healthy behavioral development. All programs provide the building blocks of development that all children need in order to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

For more information about Del Alma's services and programs, call 970-385-4354.

March 23 Drum **Deadline**

Display/Classified Ads & Jobs March 19

Stories & News, **Announcements** Wishes/B-Days! March 19

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

A bi-weekly newspaper, owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Ignacio, Colorado.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 Per Year • \$49 (2) Years PHONE: 970-563-0100 · DIRECT: 970-563-0118 TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 · FAX: 970-563-0391

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> Ignacio, CO 81137 · Ignacio, Colorado **STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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Public notice

The Southern Ute Tribe's Department of Natural Resources, is in the process of putting address signs for Southern Ute Tribal members living within the boundaries of the Reservation. The long standing and growing concern is from emergency service providers and law enforcement regarding 911 addressing issues and response time. There are precious minutes lost when emergency response units are dispatched to the wrong address. The Department of Natural Resources reminds all; these signs are the property of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Please do not remove these sign, each sign has a purpose. For 911 emergency systems to dispatch emergency service providers to the proper physical address. If you have any questions, please contact Eddie Box, Jr., DNR Information Systems Manager at 970-563-0125 ext. 2232.

Requests for bids

IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT GEOTHERMAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Ignacio School District 11J is soliciting for qualified applicants to provide geotechnical reports for three school district properties. Interested applicants may obtain the RFP from the District's Architects, Doug Abernethy AIA and Ken Gregg AIA by e-mail at doug@rtaarchitects.com and ken@rtaarchitects.com. Interested firms must notify the Architect of their intent to submit a proposal by 3/16/12 at 5 p.m. Deadline for electronic delivery of proposals is 3/30/12 at 4 p.m.

Requests for bids

HEALTH AND WELLNESS POWWOW COMMITTEE CATERING SERVICES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS POWWOW

The Health and Wellness Powwow committee is now accepting bids for catering for the upcoming Health and Wellness Powwow, taking place Oct. 20, 2012. All bids must be turned in, in writing, by July 1, to be considered. A menu must be planned, included with the specific recipes. Catering will be planned for 500 people, for the meal break at 5 p.m. at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds. Preference will be given to caters and their servers/helpers who have food handlers certificates, or able to obtain prior to the event. Each interested caterer will be asked to turn in two bids; 1 will include set-up and clean up of all meal related items; 2 the other bid should be for cooking and food preparation only (committee and volunteers can be responsible for set up and clean up). If interested in catering this event, please contact Robert Howe at 970-563-0100, ext. 2458 or call the Southern Ute Shining Mountain Diabetes program at 970-563-4741.

Requests for bids

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE - GROVE BRIDGE PROJECT

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Resources Division is requesting bids for an engineering evaluation for a bridge replacement project on Tribal Trust Lands. The project site is the crossing of homesite access road and an irrigation canal approximately four miles south of Bayfield, Colorado. Scope of work shall consist of an engineering evaluation of the integrity of the existing bridge and abutments, a cost estimate for rehabilitation of the existing bridge with improvements to the access from the county road, and a cost estimate for replacement of the bridge with improvements to the access from the county road. Responses to this RFP will be received by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Water Resources Division located at 601 CR 517 in Ignacio, Colorado 81137 until close of business, March 23, 2012. A mandatory site tour will take place on March 16, 2012. Contact Tami Sheldon for a copy of the RFP at 970-563-9482 or tsheldon@southern-ute.nsn.us.

Requests for Bids

THREE SPRINGS - V1F3B PROJECT

Request for bids for the GRVP, LLC, V1F3B Project at Three Springs, Durango. Bid-Notice is hereby given that Bids from qualified contractors shall be received by Russell Planning and Engineering, Inc. in their office located at 934 Main Avenue, Unit C, Durango, Colorado 81301, until 4 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, April 5, 2012. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained on the www.threeslink.com website or at Point to Point Graphics (970-259-9225) at Contractors expense on March 15, 2012. Pass code for web site shall be given out to bidders via email by contacting Darren Stewart at darrens@russellpe.com or Bill Roche at broche@sugf.com . Each Bid must be clearly marked with the Bid Title and Firm Identification. Bid evaluation will comply with the Three Springs, Indian Preference in Bidding Procedures. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on-site at 175 Mercado Street, Suite 240, Durango, CO at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2012. Deadline for Questions: All questions relating to the bid must be submitted via e-mail to Darren Stewart at darrens@russellpe.com by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2012. The Owner reserves the right to reject late Bids. The Owner reserves the right to cancel this Bid, or reject any and all submittals, in whole or in part, when it is in the best interest of the Owner. The Owner assumes no financial responsibility/liability whatsoever for the preparation of any response to this Bid. Bids will not be accepted by telephone, fax or e-mail.



Restaurants -

Julie's El Amigo

970-563-9998, 355 Goddard Ave., jquintana1952@yahoo.com, 11a-8p "Mexican & American food"

Retail

Marcella's Gifts

970-563-0266 355 Goddard Ave. diamondlady@frontier.net Tu-Sa 10a-5:30p; Su appt

Pine River Enterprises 970-563-9286 1817 Hwy. 151

M-F 7:30a-5p "Selling tires and farm and ranch goods"

Pinon Liquors 970-563-4083 125 Goddard Ave. M-Th 10a-11p; F-Sa 10a-12a; Su 10a-10p "Everyday low prices; drive-up window;

good wine selection; coldest beer"

Ignacio Community Library

970-563-9287 470 Goddard Ave. www.ignaciolibrary.org M-Th 9a-7p; F 9a-5p; Sa 9a-4p "A cool place to check out"

> Paco Glass Inc. 970-563-4074

950 1/2 Goddard Ave. "Summertime is coming; keep the bugs out and get your screens done early"

Photocopier Service/Copy Shop

970-884-2311 1327 U.S. Hwy 160B Ste. F M-F 9a-4p

Services —

"Copies, inks, toners, imaging supplies on all makes office equipment"

Pine River Times

970-884-2331 110 E. Mill St.

www.pinerivertimes.com "The heart of the Pine River Valley"

To advertise in the Ignacio Business directory, contact Ignacio Floral & Gifts at 970-563-4070 or The Southern Ute Drum at 970-563-0118.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Marissa Rocha

Job Title: Boys and Girls Club CPO

Description of duties: Directs and oversees a broad range of programs within the club. Plans, develops, and oversees implementation and supervision of programs, staff, and grant management.

Hobbies: Community work

Family: Daughters – Larissa (17) and Karissa (6)

Tribe: Tri-ethnic

Additional comments: I believe that children are our future and there-

fore, their present should be our priority.

Jonathan 'Jered' Canty

Job Title: Terrior Education Museum Tours "Curator" Description of Duties: Education Outreach Museum Tours media Hobbies: Drum Singing, Basketball Family: Jennie and Ed Canty Tribe: Catawba Nation



SUNUTE NEW HIRES



Morgan Box

My favorite thing about working at SunUte is the atmosphere. This is the only job I've ever had that doesn't feel like work. The staff and clientele are awesome to be around. My goal here is I just want to do what I can to help the members of this center achieve their fitness goals.

Amber Doughty

My favorite thing about working at SunUte is it gives me the chance to work with the tribal membership and the community. I'm able to make a difference in someone's life whether it is fitness related or

just being a positive influence to the kids. My goal is to work with tribal members and members of SunUte to obtain healthy life styles and functional fitness training.



Rylie Jefferson

My favorite thing about working at

SunUte is the environment and the other employees and customers, they're all great!! My goal for working at SunUte is to get to know everyone and keep myself fit, there's no reason not to be!



Anthony Konkol

I enjoy working at SunUte because it so much fun. My goal working here is the help people reach their goals.



Dustin Mangus

My favorite thing about working at SunUte is the great environment. My goal working here is to make the community pool fun and safe for everybody.



Maria Rivera

My favorite thing about working at SunUte is coming to work seeing and working with so many positive people. My goal working at SunUte is to motivate and help

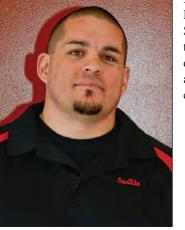
tribal membership, as well as community members, live a healthier and fit lifestyle.



Ian Thompson

My favorite thing about working at SunUte is the atmosphere. This is the only job I've ever had that

doesn't feel like work. The staff and clientele are awesome to be around. My goal here is to do what I can to help the members of this center achieve their fitness goals.





Ignacio School District

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221 Job descriptions and application can be found at: www.ignacioschools.org

Art teacher - Open until filled. To begin March 19, 2012.

IN THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COURT OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE • ON THE SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION PO Box 737 #149, CR 517, IGNACIO, CO (970) 563-0240

In the Estate of, Case No.: 2012-PR-018 NOTICE OF PROBATE

Jimmy Dondi Paul, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO. Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on April 2, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and

answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and

time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be

continued and to make the determination therein necessary. Dated this 16th of February, 2012. BY THE COURT, Janie Herrera, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2012-NC-019 NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

Walter Jim Reynolds Jr., Civil Subject Notice is hereby given that Walter Jim Reynolds Jr. has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Walter Jim Roubideaux Reynolds Jr. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than April 8, 2012 at 5 p.m. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2012. BY THE COURT, Karla Tucson, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2012-NC-020 NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

Walter Darwin Reynolds III, Civil Subject Notice is hereby given that Walter Darwin Reynolds III has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Walter Darwin Roubideaux Reynolds III. Any

person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than April 8, 2012 at 5 p.m. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2012. BY THE COURT, Karla Tucson, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2012-NC-027 NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE Jaela L. Rae Porambo, Civil Subject

Notice is hereby given that Jaela L. Rae Porambo has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Jaela Lucinda Rae Velasco. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than April 8, 2012 at 5 p.m. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change. Dated this 22nd day of February, 2012. BY THE COURT, Karla Tucson, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2012-NC-028 NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE Kylan Porambo, Civil Subject

Notice is hereby given that Kylan Porambo has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Kylan Jacob Velasco. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than April 8, 2012 at 5 p.m. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change. Dated this 22nd day of February, 2012. BY THE COURT, Karla Tucson, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2012-NC-022 NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

Erika Jennifer Mayanda Gre Mi Antoinette Goodtracks,

Notice is hereby given that Erika Jennifer Mayanda Gre Mi Antoinette Goodtracks has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Jennifer Mayanda-Gre-Mi Antoinette Goodtracks. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than April 15, 2012 at 5 p.m. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change. Dated this 13th day of February, 2012. BY THE COURT,

Karla Tucson, Deputy Court Clerk

Sky Ute Casino Resort

Human Resources Department: 970-563-1311 • Fax: 970-563-1419 P.O. Box 340 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Indian Preference Employer • All Applicants Welcome • Apply online: www.skyutecasino.com

Facilities Facilities Staff – TMP, closes 3/11/12

Food & Beverage Kitchen Utility Steward – FT, closes 3/12/12

Kitchen Utility Steward – TMP, closes 3/12/12

*Wait Staff-Rolling Thunder Gr. - FT, closes 3/12/12

Accounting Accounting Analyst – FT, closes 3/13/12 Table Games

*Multi-Games Dealer - TMP, Open until filled *Poker Dealer – TMP, Open until filled

Preference Given To Qualified Southern Ute tribal members and other Native Americans. FT: Full-time; PT: Part-time; OC: On-Call; TMP: Temp

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE **Powwow Committee vacancy**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has four Powwow Committee Member vacancies. Must be an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members or a Native American community member. Members serve on a voluntary basis. The responsibility of the Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is to promote the traditions and culture of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe through powwows. All interests individuals are urged to submit a letter of intent to Personnel Department in the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building.

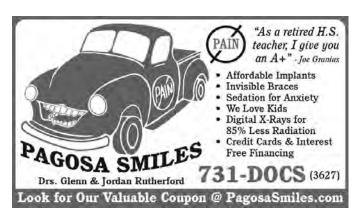
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE, SOCIAL SERVICES Citizen Review Panel

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking five (5) Southern Ute Tribal Members to serve on the Citizen Review Panel. The Panel reviews complaints arising from and related to cases handled by the Tribe's Division of Social Services and engages in a conflict resolution process. Panel members shall receive compensation at the rate of \$25 per hour for service on the Panel. Applicants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older; have demonstrable personal or professional knowledge and experience with children and/or adult protection; have no convictions for crimes of violence or involving a child victim; is not party to litigation involving the Division, or has had an active welfare case within two years; is not a Division employee. All applicants will be subject to a background investigation. Tribal members interested in serving on the Citizen Review Panel can turn in a letter of intent at the Human Resources Office. The letter should provide specific evidence of his/her qualifications. For detailed information about this volunteer position call Human Resources at 970-563-0100 ext. 2424.

Advertise With Us!

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Community Business Section

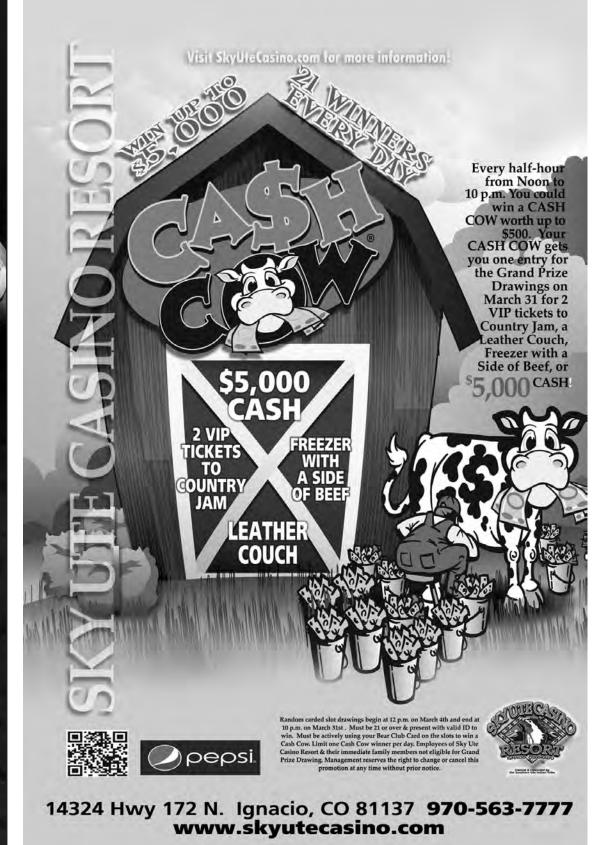






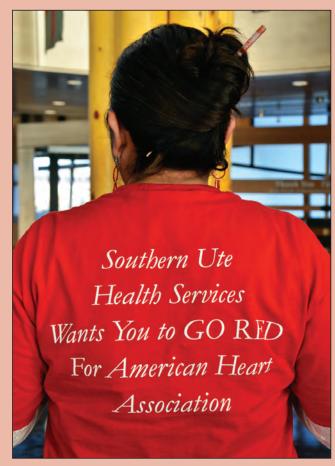


www.skyutecasino.com



Health Services 'goes red'





February was American Heart Month, and Southern Ute Health Services not only encouraged its personnel to wear red on Fridays — they also organized a group photo with Miss Southern Ute Brianna GoodTracks-Alires at the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (top) on Friday, Feb. 24. Health Service Manager Mirielle Begay (left) shows off a shirt supporting Heart Month awareness.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Mountain lion falls to highway traffic

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Tribal Rangers recovered a freshly killed adult male mountain lion on U.S. Highway 550 just north of the Colorado-New Mexico state line on Thursday, Feb. 23.

The animal was apparently the victim of a fatal encounter with highway traffic. Southern Ute Dispatch received a call from a local oil and gas company employee who spotted the body at about 7 a.m., said Capt. Gus Velasquez. When a ranger arrived on the scene near mile marker 1, there were about eight cars along the side of the road, Velasquez said.

"People were getting curious as to why everyone else was stopping," he said.

Typically when the Tribal Rangers recover the body of an uncommon animal, they turn it over to the tribe's Wildlife Resource Management Division. Within a few hours, the division had found an interested tribal member to take the carcass, said Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson.

"If an animal is hit and its within tribal jurisdiction, we like to get it back, because there are tribal members that will utilize certain parts of it," he said, including the hide, skull, claws and teeth.

Johnson said the animal appeared to be between four and six years old and in "great shape."

"It's a nice cat; an unfortunate demise," he said. "Really unfortunate for him to go down like that. Really a prime animal."



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson of the tribe's Wildlife Resource Management Division studies a freshly killed mountain lion on Thursday, Feb. 23. Using scientific methods, Johnson determined the animal was between four and six years old.

Though many drivers on Southern Ute Indian Reservation roads have had close encounters with deer at some point, it's relatively rare to hear about a mountain lion, Johnson said. He could recall "only a handful" of traffic encounters in the last decade, he said.

According to a three-year study began in 1999 by Joe Koloski, a graduate student who later became the tribe's wildlife biologist, the reservation supports approximately 55 mountain lions at any given time.

Koloski's research led to the approval of a mountain lion management plan and the reopening of a mountain lion hunting season to tribal members, which had been closed in the '90s due to lack of knowledge. Current quotas allow for the harvesting of four female or seven mountain lions total.

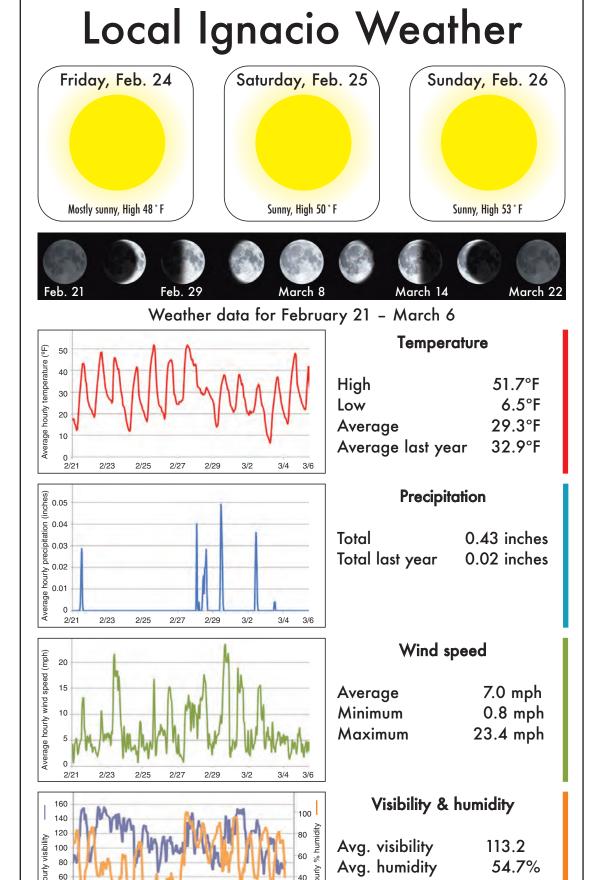
Johnson said there have been several mountain lion sightings near town over the past two years. He urged anyone who sees one to call dispatch immediately at 970-563-4401.

"The last couple of springs — it seems like it's right around April — we've had a visit by a mountain lion that part of its territory is the Pine River," he said. "We take that real seriously."



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

An adult male mountain lion killed in traffic on Thursday, Feb. 23 was a "prime animal," according to Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson of the tribe's Wildlife Resource Management Division.



20

Data compiled by Southern Ute Environmental Programs

Air quality

Good

Weather forecasts collected from www.NOAA.gov

